



DATE: November 19, 2007

TO: Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force Members and Interested Parties

FROM: John Kirlin, Executive Director
Delta Vision

SUBJECT: Meeting, November 29 – 30, 2007

Overall Comments:

The November meeting will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center, the location of the April Task Force meeting.

Materials for the upcoming meeting, including the agenda and various attachments, are posted with this memo.

This is the meeting at which the Task Force will recommend a vision and near term actions. Drafts of both documents are included.

Both days of the meeting are structured to maximize interaction among Task Force members. There are no scheduled presentations or reports. Staff will be present to respond to possible questions and also to assist in developing changed language requested by the Task Force.

Comments on the Draft Vision and the Near Term Actions Memo:

The vision draft is substantially revised since the version discussed in October and should provide a good basis for your discussion and action at the meeting. This draft seeks to be responsive to all recommendations from Task Force members and is also informed by comments received from interested stakeholders.

Comments on the draft vision, focusing on changes from the October draft:

1. Substantially revised executive summary, including
 - (i) short discussion of the importance of the Delta to California and how uses dependent on levees and water infrastructure put in



- place before environmental consciousness and laws are now challenged,
 - (ii) acknowledgement that Executive Order S-17-06 of Task Force gives Delta Vision responsibility to develop a broad, comprehensive vision for the Delta and California,
 - (iii) recognition that this broad responsibility requires that recommendations about conveyance fit into the broader vision rather than be the starting point for making recommendations and
 - (iv) urging decisions and action to avoid risks resulting from procrastination or paralysis.
2. Statement of five elements required for a successful vision (page 4). These statements make explicit expectations less clearly expressed in the earlier drafts of the visions.
 3. Summary list of twelve interrelated elements which comprise the vision (page 4). This list is a new effort, extracting, elaborating and refining ideas from the earlier drafts and discussed in Task Force meetings. These are recommended as elements of a comprehensive vision, all of which are critical to success, and should not be treated as a menu of possible actions.
 4. Section II elaborates on the twelve elements (pages 6-12). The elaborations vary in length, but that is not intended to convey differences in importance. **Note especially that alternative language is provided for consideration by Task Force members in regard to conveyance** (page 10). I believe the language offered captures the range of ideas among Task Force members.
 5. Section II includes discussion of actions required to achieve the vision in five areas
 - (i) the Delta as place (pages 12-15),
 - (ii) revitalizing the Delta ecosystem (pages 15-17),
 - (iii) water supply (pages 17-20),
 - (iv) Delta levees (pages 20-21) and
 - (v) actions outside the Delta (page 21). Many of these ideas were in earlier drafts of the vision but are further developed and refined here.
 6. Section III addresses governance, developing and refining ideas in the earlier drafts. **Note especially that the Task Force members are also given alternative language on governance for consideration** (pages 24-25)

7. Section IV, titled “the vision achieved” emphasizes some of the ways in which California and the Delta would be changed as this vision is achieved. It is not intended to be a complete projection of that future, but suggestive of changes.
8. Section V is a short summary, not much changed from earlier drafts.

Comments on the near term actions recommendations:

The Task Force has also discussed near term actions and such proposals for emergency response were an appendix in the October draft vision. These recommendations are now assembled in a separate memo.

This memo recommends criteria by which proposed near term actions should be judged and then makes recommendations regarding:

- (i) public safety and disaster preparedness,
- (ii) protecting the Delta from encroaching development,
- (iii) accelerating ecosystem revitalization, and
- (iv) improving current water conveyance systems.